

## **PENN STATE'S 2022-23 APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for our 2022-23 appropriation request. The funding from the Commonwealth is a critical factor that influences Penn State's resident tuition rates. It helps defray the cost of in-state tuition for Pennsylvania resident undergraduates across all our campuses, which serve some of the most economically challenged regions of Pennsylvania. It also provides crucial funding that helps support Agricultural Research and Extension; Medical Assistance, CURE, the Cancer Institute, ASERT, and other health-related activities of Penn State Health and the College of Medicine; and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. This year, we are also requesting support to advance economic development activities across Pennsylvania.

Penn State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been partners since our founding in 1855, and together we have contributed immeasurably to quality of life, economic development, agricultural productivity, medical care, and leadership in every sector of society. An investment in Penn State is an investment in the communities, families, and individuals who comprise our great state.

In February 2019, a newly released study found that Penn State is an economic powerhouse, contributing more than \$11.6 billion to the state's economy and supporting, directly and indirectly, more than 105,000 jobs across Pennsylvania in FY 2017. The study also found that for every \$1 in state appropriations received by Penn State, the University returns \$1.24 in tax payments to the Commonwealth, highlighting the widespread nature of Penn State's economic contributions. Our University, with 24 locations across the Commonwealth, an academic medical center, two law schools, and a growing health system, is an engine that drives the economy and improves lives in all 67 Pennsylvania counties.

Modest increases in the appropriation over the last six years combined with Penn State's intensified efforts related to access and affordability have helped Penn State minimize tuition increases for Pennsylvania resident students. Our focus has been to reduce the total cost of a degree, decrease the rate of student borrowing, promote success of need-based students, and decrease attrition due to finances. Tuition increases across Penn State's campuses have been below national averages for over a decade. Calculated in FY21 dollars, in-state student are now paying less tuition for their Penn State education than they were in 2011-2012.

For the current academic year, we recognized that COVID-19 has placed additional financial stressors on many students and families and have minimized tuition increases for all Penn State students. At the same time, the pandemic has had an impact on Penn State's resources:

Enrollments have declined as students have decided for personal or financial reasons to postpone college, yet the university's costs have increased in order to operate safely during the pandemic.

Penn State's appropriation includes two line items under the Department of Education: General Support and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. In addition, the appropriation for the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund that supports Agricultural Research and Extension is appropriated through the Department of Agriculture, while support for Penn State Health and the College of Medicine is provided through the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. In addition, a special request for \$2.35 million is included to support economic development activities across Pennsylvania. The purpose, use, and benefits to the citizenry of the Commonwealth are summarized in the following sections of this statement.

The University is requesting a total appropriation of \$358.2 million, representing a 5.7 percent increase overall.

## **GENERAL SUPPORT**

The General Support appropriation both offsets the cost of tuition for Pennsylvania residents and supplements the University's efforts to address access and affordability. Commonwealth support enables the university to provide in-state tuition savings for Pennsylvania resident students that is far greater than the per student appropriation.

Equally important, Penn State's partnership with the state has allowed our university to invest in excellence so we can attract the best and brightest students from across Pennsylvania.

In the 2021-22 Center for World University Rankings, Penn State was ranked 54<sup>th</sup> among the best universities in the world, and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the United States, for the quality of education of its students and the research prowess of its faculty. U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges for 2022 ranks Penn State 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally among top public schools, 34<sup>th</sup> for most innovative schools, and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the best colleges for veterans.

U.S. News' and World Reports' Best Online Programs for 2021 ranked Penn State World Campus in the top 10 of 20 categories:

- No. 4, master's in engineering
- No. 3 (tie), master's in industrial engineering
- No. 3 (tie), master's in engineering management
- No. 10 (tie), bachelor's programs
- No. 1, bachelor's in psychology programs
- No. 7 (tie), MBA programs
- No. 9 (tie), business analytics MBA and general management MBA

- No. 8 (tie), MBA programs in marketing
- No. 10, master's in non-MBA business
- No. 7 (tie), master's in education
- No. 5, master's in educational administration
- No. 10 (tie), master's in curriculum and instruction
- No. 8, master's in instructional media
- No. 8 (tie), master's in computer information technology
- Best Online Programs for Veterans: bachelor's (No. 7, tie), master's in engineering (No. 1), master's in education (No. 3), MBA (No. 5, tie), master's in non-MBA business (No. 3), and master's in computer information technology (No. 5)

Furthermore, according to a recent report by Forbes, Penn State awarded the most undergraduate degrees in STEM fields in the U.S.; more than 50% more than UC Berkeley, Texas A&M, Arizona State, and Purdue. Penn State is also one of only four universities to appear in both the STEM and business top 20s.

These rankings demonstrate the strength of our world-class faculty, research enterprise, and alumni employment.

A state appropriation is critical to helping us attract and retain the type of students that will stay in the state to complete their studies and will then choose to remain here and help Pennsylvania prosper. With 54,500 Pennsylvania resident students across 24 campuses and a World Campus, Penn State has the capacity that no other university in the state can match. Penn State is a valuable asset to the Commonwealth that provides a great return on investment.

It is also noteworthy that nearly 20 percent of Penn State's out-of-state and international students choose to stay in Pennsylvania after completing their degrees. These students start companies, enrich established businesses, and contribute to their communities as taxpayers, volunteers, and citizens. Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the nation for the percent of senior citizens. Attracting and retaining young professionals is vitally important for the economic security of the Commonwealth.

The 2022-23 appropriation request for General Support for Penn State proposes a 5 percent increase of \$12.1 million. Our efforts made possible by the General Support appropriation to address access and affordability and to promote job creation, economic development and student career success are summarized below.

### **Access and Affordability**

For our education mission, our University receives approximately \$242 million. Divided evenly among the 44,593 Pennsylvania undergraduate students that we educate each year, each student

would receive approximately \$5,429. Note the national average is \$7,642. Yet at Penn State the average Pennsylvania student pays approximately \$13,389 less than their out-of-state counterparts. We are more than doubling the state's investment to make Penn State more affordable and accessible for the working families of Pennsylvania. Notably, Penn State ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among the 36 public members of the Association of American Universities for the smallest overall increase in in-state tuition over the last 10 years according to the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Over the past few years Penn State has intensified our efforts related to access and affordability. Our focus has been to reduce the total cost of a degree, decrease the rate of student borrowing, promote success of need-based students, and decrease attrition due to finances. Tuition increases across Penn State's campuses have been below national averages for over a decade.

Despite these efforts, tuition continues to be among our most pressing concerns, as does student debt. The average loan debt at graduation is rising-- \$36,044 for in-state students and \$40,770 for out-of-state students. With the partnership of the legislature and the support of Governor Wolf, we hope to continue to keep our tuition increases as low as practically possible and to enable our students to graduate with less debt and more opportunities.

We continue to pilot and expand targeted solutions to reduce the total cost of a degree, and the data suggests they are every effective. For example, Penn State offers Provost Awards to high achieving students with high need. The awards range from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per student/per year, which results in a cumulative total of \$20,000 to \$24,000 to each awardee. Since the Provost Awards began in 2013-14, more than \$110 million has been awarded to 14,618 students.

Over the past year, we focused on addressing food and housing insecurity at Penn State. Across all campuses, 35 percent of all student reported food insecurity. As a result, Penn State residential campuses hosted Swipe Out Hunger from April 19-23, which allowed students to donate dining dollars to students in need. Penn State is also working to enhance Lion Pantry management and offerings; participate in a bulk purchasing program; develop a sustainable funding model; create a food notification app; and establish a permanent Student Emergency Fund through major gift and annual giving efforts.

Fall 2021 also marked the introduction of new LiveOn Student Success Grants, which seek to close the annual funding gap for students seeking a residential experience. The Grants provide need-based student aid toward the balance of Room & Board not covered after all federal, state, local and University grants, scholarships, or awards are applied. Residential students will save approximately 25 percent on room and board over four years on campus.

Other targeted solutions are Open Doors programs that include: the Raise.me Scholarships; Pathway to Success – Summer Start (PaSSS); Smart Track designed for online learners; Student Transition Experiences Program (STEP) for juniors transitioning from a Commonwealth Campus

to University Park; the Sokolov-Miller Financial Literacy and Life Skills Center (online and on campus); and Complete Penn State, which is designed to help students with high GPAs and credit counts overcome struggles so they can complete their degrees. The University has invested in these targeted solutions and made them a centerpiece of our philanthropic campaign, *A Greater Penn State for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Excellence*. To date, more than 4,000 students have received an award through Open Doors programs since their inception—for a total of nearly \$12 million. The average award is \$2,146. It is noteworthy that the students in these Open Doors programs have higher retention rates, higher grade point averages, and lower late drop rates than the comparable population.

Another important strategy for helping students reduce the cost of a degree is through Penn State's intensified efforts in student advising. In 2015, Starfish was introduced university-wide and has proven effective in facilitating connections. It allows all academic advisors to use the same platform to maintain advising notes and monitor student progress. It identifies at-risk students in real time and connects students to valuable services. It is having a significant impact. Over the last year, 126,788 one-on-one advising meetings were held, and 250,000+ advising notes were added to Starfish. By improving the advisers' ability to address student concerns, performance was improved: nine percent higher fall-to-spring retention rate University-wide, a five percent higher term GPA, and an eight percent higher pass rate.

We hope that our efforts will open the door for more students to earn a Penn State education, and we look forward to working with the Governor and the General Assembly to help all the families of Pennsylvania do so, regardless of socioeconomic status.

### **Student Career Success**

Penn State is living the land-grant mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through our commitment to job creation, economic development, and student career success. Career Services is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in nation; tied with Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition, Penn State is the No. 2 institution in the country for graduating CEOs (just behind Stanford) according to a LinkedIn study. Currently, Penn State alumni lead Fortune 500 companies including Nike, Merck, PPL, and Hanesbrands, and we're continuing to ensure there is a pipeline to career success.

In 2018, Penn State launched a single, integrated career enterprise system for the 37 career units across our colleges and campuses. This new system provides access to all jobs and services for all students and alumni. It allows employers to post career opportunities on one central system, and it enables both university-wide reporting and college-specific/campus-specific reporting of career success activity.

Penn State is a national leader among large universities for holistically and collaboratively managing career services. Below are approximate average annual data over the past three years regarding career preparation and recruitment activity across the entire University:

- 70 Career Fairs; 4,500 employers; 33,000 students/alumni; Fall Career Fair alone: 550 employers and 9,000 students.
- 17,000 on-campus interviews.
- 44 interview rooms in Career Services Center.
- 40,000 individual career coaching sessions.
- 2,000 career workshops/events: 65,000 participants.
- 75 career courses taught to 2,500 students.
- This operation serves the students and employers. As one recruiter noted, “I have been in talent acquisition for many years and attended career fairs all over the country. I have never been more pleased with the preparedness of a student body at a fair than I was today.”

### **INVENT PENN STATE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION**

The Invent Penn State LaunchBox & Innovation Hub Network began modestly in 2015 and has grown to 21 locations embedded within Penn State campus communities, many in rural areas with traditionally underserved populations. Modeled after the Penn State agricultural cooperative extension, the network provides access to no-cost business startup support—coworking space, makerspace, accelerator programs, pitch competitions, speaker series, access to experts and mentors, and legal and IP advice through Penn State Law clinics. These services complement existing community resources and are offered in partnership with regional economic development authorities tailored to meet the unique needs of each community. Since 2015, the demand for innovation across the Commonwealth has surged and in turn, the network has grown to support 4,976 community entrepreneurs, launched 218 new Pennsylvania companies, graduated more than 345 startups from accelerator programs, 309 product development projects, and created 302.5 jobs. Today, 96% of Pennsylvanians have a LaunchBox or innovation hub within 30 miles of where they live or work.

By leveraging Penn State’s size, technology, and broad research strengths (Penn State’s research expenditures exceeded the \$1 billion mark in fiscal year 2019-2020), Invent Penn State is accelerating the transfer of new ideas into useful products and processes that span industry sectors. LaunchBox accelerator programs have graduated tech startups with innovations that range from protecting the environment to improving access to healthcare—all while enhancing student career success and growing the Pennsylvania economy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the network swiftly pivoted to deliver needed programming and services online, breaking down the geographic barrier to extend the capabilities and resources of each community across the state.

An example of the LaunchBox & Innovation Hub Network impact can be seen in New Kensington. Over three years, Invent Penn State awarded Penn State New Kensington \$150,000 in seed grant funding to promote economic development — and the impact has been dramatic.

The Corner LaunchBox at Penn State New Kensington has assisted over 190 entrepreneurs, created 32 new jobs, and hosted 88 community events.

A similar transformation is underway in Hazleton. Invent Penn State provided Penn State Hazleton with a planning grant of \$10,000 and seed grant funding of \$150,000 to establish a LaunchBox that was subsequently endowed from the estate of Pasco L. Schiavo. Located in a predominantly Latinx community, Hazleton LaunchBox offers bilingual programs and has assisted more than 110 local entrepreneurs and hosted 35 community events.

Invent Penn State's LaunchBox & Innovation Hub Network is always growing, and a new Penn State Innovation Hub in downtown State College was opened in November 2021. Located on South Burrowes Street, the six-story, state-of-the-art, multi-use center now serves as the cornerstone of Penn State's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Key to fulfilling Invent Penn State's economic development vision, the Hub will provide the community access to high-end physical and digital making resources as well as offering coworking and event space and serving as the new home for Happy Valley LaunchBox powered by PNC Bank.

Building on this strong foundation, Penn State is requesting \$2.35 million to strengthen and grow the LaunchBox & Innovation Hub Network across Pennsylvania, consistent with the University's commitment to extension services as a central element of our land-grant mission. In addition, we propose expanding established startup pitch competitions and entrepreneurship training programs to offer new statewide opportunities that are open to any university student in Pennsylvania:

- **Strengthen Innovation in Small to Medium Enterprises (\$500,000):** Expand access to Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) for Small to Medium Enterprises, including access to virtual services, and add three PennTAP Innovation Advisors to support regional businesses.
- **Strengthening the Innovation Hubs (\$1.775 million):** Grow entrepreneurship programs with additional staffing and support services; and explore new viability of innovation space in collaboration with PA SBDCs and/or PASSHE universities in underserved areas.

We anticipate an investment in the next generation of innovators in New Kensington, Hazleton, State College, and other Pennsylvania communities will not only positively impact new business creation and job growth for rural and underrepresented constituents, but also will help decrease the impact of brain drain across the state. This focus on fundamental economic development is what it means to be a public university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century—leveraging excellence in teaching, research, and service to improve the quality of life for humankind.

## **PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Pennsylvania College of Technology, located in Williamsport, is a national leader in applied technology education and a special mission affiliate of Penn State. Penn College offers hands-on

learning opportunities in a wide range of essential, STEM-related career fields that are responsive to Pennsylvania's most pressing workforce needs, including plastics engineering, nursing and physician assistant, IT cybersecurity, heavy equipment, construction management, and robotic welding, among others. Penn College has a 96+ percent overall graduate placement rate that reaches 100 percent in many of its 100+ academic majors. The College enrolls nearly 5,000 students, 90.6 percent of whom reside in Pennsylvania, with 91.3 percent receiving some form of financial aid. The 2022-23 appropriations request for Penn College proposes a 5 percent increase of \$1,336,800, to be used predominantly in support of laboratory facilities and equipment for Physician Assistant Studies, a rigorous combined Bachelor/Master of Science degree program featuring 100 percent graduate placement. Physician assistant graduates are in high demand throughout the Commonwealth in primary care, emergency medicine, family practice, orthopedics, and cardiovascular surgery settings.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PENN STATE EXTENSION**

The 2022-23 appropriations request proposes an increase of \$2,748,000 in the Commonwealth's investment in the Agricultural Research and Penn State Extension programs in support of agriculture and rural communities.

#### ***Pennsylvania agriculture is a major economic driver in Pennsylvania.***

According to the publication "The Economic Impact of Agriculture in Pennsylvania: 2021 Update," produced by Econsult Solutions Inc. and commissioned by Team PA, Pennsylvania agriculture supports 301,900 direct jobs and a total of 593,600 jobs when including induced spending. It has \$81.5 billion direct output and total economic impact in the Commonwealth of \$132.5 billion in 2019. Perhaps more importantly, it supports Pennsylvania's and the nation's food supply chain, critical to the wellbeing of every citizen.

#### ***The challenges facing Pennsylvania agriculture are more complex than ever, as is the need for research and science-based solutions and innovations.***

The breakdowns in our food and fiber production and distribution systems during COVID were a reminder of the importance, complexity, and vulnerabilities of our nation's food and fiber supply chains. The national system of land-grant system was founded more than 150 years ago on the cornerstone of advancing agriculture and mechanical engineering through research and innovation to develop and feed a growing nation. The college continues the legacy and moral challenge of feeding a world population, predicted to grow by 3 billion people by 2100, using less land with fewer inputs and impacts.



*College of Agricultural Sciences agricultural research and extension programs are at risk.*

College research and extension programs are funded through a land-grant partnership of federal, state, and county funding. Tuition dollars are not used to support these programs. Our state appropriation has not kept up with inflation, remains less than our 2008 funding level, and has been flat for the past three years. As a result, the college is currently operating with a \$2.6 million yearly deficit.

The college has implemented a soft freeze on hiring and is currently unable to fill 22 faculty vacancies that occurred over past 2 years. Leadership estimates a loss of an additional 15 faculty research positions over the next few years due to budget shortfalls. That will not only greatly reduce the college's capacity to research critical issues facing Pennsylvania, but it also reduces competitive, federal research dollars coming into Pennsylvania via this faculty.

**Currently, the College's state appropriation is used to directly leverage approximately \$100M, including:**

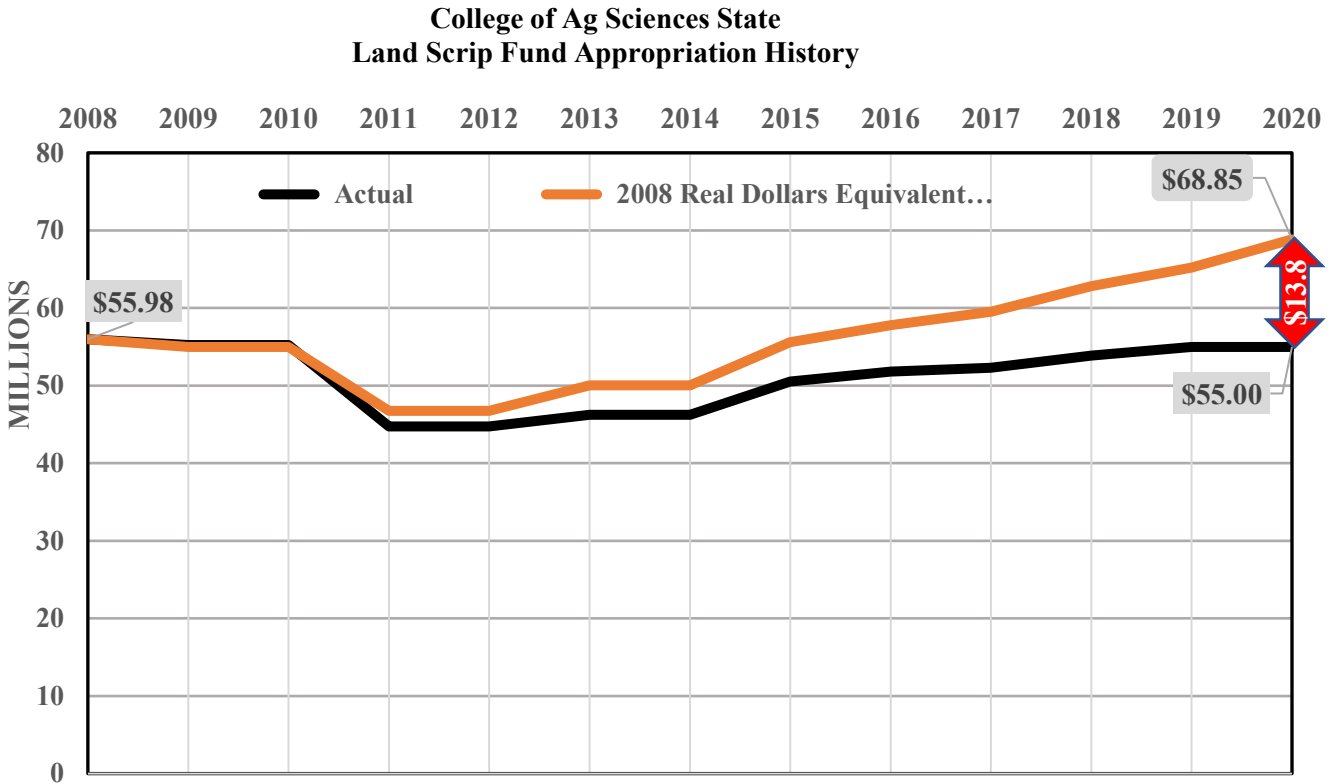
- \$65 million in competitive grant funding (through USDA and other national sources)
- \$12 million in county support of cooperative extension
- \$23 million in federal land-grant formula funds for agricultural research stations in Pennsylvania, research faculty, and for cooperative extension

*The College's agricultural research and extension programs have a long history of partnering with Pennsylvania agriculture sectors and rural communities to identify critical issues that the College is uniquely positioned to address.*

College research and extension priorities currently include looming issues such as combating destructive and invasive species, safeguarding Pennsylvania animal agriculture, expanding dairy food processing support, implementing water quality solutions, and providing extensive workforce development programs. All these issues have been identified as priority challenges by Pennsylvania agriculture.

The College also provides research and education around large-scale issues such as climate-smart agricultural systems, landscape-level analysis, nutritional and food security, biodiversity, and human and community dynamics. Penn State Extension also leverages more than 10,500 Pennsylvania volunteers in flagship programs such as 4-H and Master Gardeners, as well as in Master Watershed Stewards, Forest Stewards, and Master Well Owners programs. The reach of the college is extensive; in 2020, due to recent investments in digital education infrastructure, which was critical during the COVID lockdowns, Penn State Extension made more than 26 million educational connections with individuals across Pennsylvania and beyond.

*Since 2010, Penn State’s agricultural research and extension programs have lost almost \$14 million in spending power in support of Pennsylvania agriculture. This trajectory is not sustainable and has put these programs at risk.*



**PENN STATE HEALTH AND THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Medical Assistance funds appropriated to Penn State Health and the College of Medicine through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Health enable citizens of the Commonwealth without the ability to pay to receive medical care at one of the nation’s premier academic medical centers. Since 2013-14, part of this funding has been designated to support the ongoing development of the Regional Medical Campus at University Park. With a focus on the preparation of medical students for careers in primary care and rural medicine, this program addresses the health care needs of both the Centre County region and the entire northern tier of Pennsylvania. This funding is used to facilitate contributions by, and collaborations with, the College of Medicine’s Department of Public Health Sciences which supports the analysis of health care needs of the Commonwealth and the development of clinically-integrated networks to meet them. It also supports innovative programs that will enhance the overall health and wellness of Pennsylvanians, particularly those